

V. REMARKS

Claim 10 is objected to. The claim is amended to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 8/1, 8/2, 9/1 and 9/2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Germany 801 alone or taken in view of Minds and Kostich. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The receptacle according to the present invention after amendment is provided with a shell covering the socket housing, wherein the shell has a member (a pair of bezels) partially covering the opening part. The shell protects the socket housing.

Further, in this application, since the shutter is held within the socket housing by engaging with a pair of bezels disposed in the shell, it can have a very simple form such as a substantially flat-board shape, so that it can be easily incorporated into the socket housing (that is, so as to enable the easy assembly). Therefore, the receptacle according to the present invention is characterized by not only the elevated rigidity but also the simplified constitution thereof.

Especially for the receptacle according to claim 5 having a pair of soldering tubs, the shell and a pair of soldering tubs can be integral molded because the shell of the invention is made of metal. The receptacle having the pair of soldering tubs has advantages that it can be easily fixed on or peeled from a board by using the tubs and the bond strength between the receptacle and the board can be increased by the tubs.

Specifically, claim 1, as amended, is directed to a receptacle that includes an insulated socket housing, female contacts, an insulative shutter and a shell. Claim 1 recites that the insulative socket housing has an opening part through which a plug having dual in-line male contacts is inserted. Claim 1 also recites that the female contacts are arrayed in parallel on a pair of inner walls opposed to each other of the opening part and come into contact with the male contacts when the plug is inserted into the opening part. Additionally, claim 1 recites that

the insulative shutter closes a front face of the opening part when the plug is removed and retracts towards a rear face of the opening part by being pushed by the plug when the plug is inserted and the shell covers the socket housing.

Claim 1 further recites that the shutter is formed of a substantially flat board-like element disposed approximately perpendicular to the direction of the plug insertion and the shell comprises a member for partially covering the front face of the opening part.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references disclose nor indicate such structures or advantage. It follows that that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests that a shutter is formed of a substantially flat board-like element disposed approximately perpendicular to the direction of a plug insertion and the shell comprises a member for partially covering the front face of the opening part. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

As support, Fig. 1 shows that the shutter (3) is formed of a flat board and the board is disposed in the socket housing so that the board is perpendicular to the direction. Fig. 1 also shows that the shell (4) has a pair of the member (a pair of bezels 42a and 42b) for making the shutter (8) to stay within the socket housing (1) as described in paragraph [0030], [0031] and [0040].

Claims 2, 8/1, 8/2, 9/1 and 9/2 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Germany 801 alone or taken in view of Minds and Kosich, as applied above and taken with Wu. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3-9 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 11/1, 2, 3, 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by any one of Germany 801 or Bricket. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 11/1, 2, 3, 4 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 10/1, 10/2, 8/1, 8/2, 9/1 and 9/2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Brickett in view of Kameda and Kosich. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

For the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the combination of these references.

Claims 2, 10/1, 10/2, 8/1, 8/2, 9/1 and 9/2 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Carl Schaukowitch
Reg. No. 29,211

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RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC
1233 20th Street, N.W. Suite 501
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: (202) 955-3750
Fax: (202) 955-3751
Customer No. 23353

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